

MAYOR NICKELS NOMINATES Stella Chao AS DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBORHOODS



Stella Chao

Mayor Greg Nickels announced he has nominated Stella Chao, a long-time community leader, as the new director of Neighborhoods.

"Stella has a passion for bringing people together, building community and serving the residents of Seattle," Nickels said.

"This is a city of great neighborhoods and strong communities. Stella's grass roots experience building a strong community-based organization in the International District makes her a great fit to lead the Department of Neighborhoods."

Prior to her nomination as DON director, Chao served as executive director of the International District Housing Alliance. Through her career, Chao has focused on helping poor and under-served populations, developing programs addressing transitional housing for victims of domestic violence, environmental education and leadership, and assistance for first-time homebuyers.

"I am excited about this opportunity to strengthen the bridges between community members and government, and develop avenues of civic engagement that are as diverse as Seattle's population," Chao said.

Chao's experience includes leadership of a community-based nonprofit organization that provided multilingual and multicultural services for low-income households with a specialization in serving immigrants and refugees. Nickels said Chao will play a pivotal role in his immigrant and refugee initiative. Nickels selected Chao after an extensive nationwide search.

Since taking the reins in March as Acting Director, Bernie Matsuno brought more outreach efforts to underrepresented communities, increased accountability with staff department-wide, and worked to increase the department's role in emergency preparedness.

Chao's appointment is subject to approval by Seattle City Council, but will start serving by late January. Recently, she shared some of her thoughts on her management philosophy, where she wants to take the department, and to say what a wonderful opportunity she's sees in this new role.

"I am excited at the prospect of working closely with all of you and getting to deeply know you and your incredible work. I feel very fortunate to be working with what many say are one of the best Department staffs in the City.

"My management style has always been as a team player, and the culture I developed at my previous organization is one of a family. I will work in the

ENCAMPMENT

Transients are accustomed to setting up encampments underneath I-5 freeway and South Jackson Street. Alex Tonel from SPU has coordinated efforts between Department of Corrections and the Seattle Police Department to clear the area of the encampments and the litter that goes along with the encampment. The event happens every two weeks. WSDOT has secured the fence that leads to beneath the I-5 freeway. Transients have figured out how to undo the fence and ingress to the covered area.

DELRIDGE**NEW NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL IN DELRIDGE**

The North Delridge Neighborhood Council is now an official organization. This month they approved their bylaws and elected officers. The co-chairs are Mike Dady and Jay Mirro, assistant co-chairs Betsy and Jerry Hoffmeister, secretary Nancy Folsom, and treasurer Gypsie Goss. The council agreed to join the city's Adopt a Street Program to cut down on the amount of litter that has accumulated along Delridge Way from SW Andover to SW Graham. They are also circulating a petition to be given to the Parks Department to install signs to encourage traffic to slow down on 26th Ave SW leading to the new Brandon Street Park.

DOWNTOWN**METROPOLITAN IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (MID) MONITORING AIA**

The MID has reported a noticeable drop in the number of reported instances of public drunkenness and calls for the sobering van since the AIA went into effect. There are a couple of "new" labels on the store shelves however, and they will be following up with the liquor board to ensure that the distributors are not simply "re-labeling" products that were already banned in AIA.

NEW DIRECTOR continued from page 1.

months to come to define the collective DON staffs' vision for the Department and developing a structure and atmosphere that supports everyone in reaching their professional and personal potentials.

"I feel that the Mayor's choosing me for this job signals a strong commitment to increase engagement of diverse populations across all our neighborhoods. Diversity to me does not mean only ethnic and racial issues, but also working to create new avenues in working with residents who have not previously been active in civic engagement.

"I think DON has a very important role in continuing the great work you have done and an incredible potential to grow our role as the best possible liaison between residents and government. Without residents' engagement, government initiatives are not sustainable. And without government, residents would not have all the resources to maintain safe and healthy neighborhoods. DON can be the focal point for the success of the relationship between community and government." 🌐

Happenings, continued on following page...

Mayor Awards Nearly \$250,000 to 21 Seattle Neighborhood Projects

AMOUNT IS MATCHED BY \$278,201 FROM COMMUNITY GROUPS

Mayor Nickels announced funding for 21 different neighborhood projects through the Department of Neighborhoods Matching Fund. This season's award recipients will include projects from all over the city covering subjects as diverse as public art, race and social justice, youth-development, and environmental protection.



Sally Clark with an Ideas Fair participant.

Four times a year, Small and Simple Project Fund Awards are given to groups committed to building a better community by matching public funds with locally raised money, donated materials, and volunteer labor. The 21 awards totaling \$247,839 in city funding range from \$1,332 to \$15,000. In addition to the city's contributions, communities will match the amount with resources valued at \$278,201.

MAYOR AWARD continued on page 7.

HAPPENINGS

your neighborhood

EAST

PARK-WATCH MEETING FOR CAL ANDERSON PARK

This month SPD East Precinct and Parks Department staff organized two meetings to address public safety issues regarding Cal Anderson Park and the surrounding neighborhood where there have been reports of illegal activity.

Organizers developed a program called "Eyes on the Park" similar to SPD Block Watch Program. The park-watch concept uses natural surveillance provided by people who live near the park to report illegal activities. Parks staff reported that there are 1,600 households within a two-block radius of the park.

At the latest meeting neighbors received information on how to utilize police procedures in dispatching 911 calls and follow up on the neighborhood requests for better lighting in the neighborhood. Next meeting was scheduled for January of 2007.

MILLER PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

After successfully completing the youth Computer Lab Program at Miller Park at the beginning of the year, the advisory council is looking for volunteers to work on the board of advisors. Most of the membership has been active since the new construction of the Miller Park Community Center took place.

The Advisory Council's accomplishments include projects and programs that assist children, families, and neighbors in the East District, such as the construction of the new community center. Volunteers with a Department of Neighborhoods Matching Fund award constructed an award-winning children's fountain and recently completed the computer lab. The advisory council is recruiting among the apartment managers and residents of the neighborhood.

GREATER DUWAMISH

GEORGETOWN PONDERES PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES

Questions have arisen over mitigation measures being developed for the Secure Community Transition Facility on Spokane St. One officer has been assigned outside the facility 24/7 for the past year, and now that this service is being withdrawn, the Advisory Board is making recommendations for mitigating this loss. Among the proposals are quarterly updates on security issues from the board, and \$500 per block watch for those in the area. The Georgetown Community Council would like to

Happenings, continued on following page...

HAPPENINGS

in your neighborhood

revisit this issue, since they may propose alternatives: requesting that the officer position dedicated to the facility be moved to an area patrol in Georgetown, for example.

Residents of Georgetown met with Benjamin Kinlow, Crime Prevention Coordinator for the Southwest Precinct, to organize Block Watch groups in the area. The intent of the residents is to keep all the Block Watch groups interconnected. The Greater Duwamish District Coordinator will meet with them at a future date to discuss funding options for community building through the Neighborhood Matching Fund.

CRIME AND LIGHTING

At a recent Beacon Alliance of Neighbors meeting, several members mentioned the increase in criminal activity in the community. Given the recent criminal activity on North Beacon Hill, lighting has come up as a concern. The group hopes to obtain funding to prune street trees to open up the dense foliage for light.

MAGNOLIA/QUEEN ANNE

MAGNOLIA/QUEEN ANNE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Representatives from SDOT and SPD attended the Magnolia Queen Anne District Council meeting in November and presented on the new signage and call boxes on the Aurora bridge. The signs indicate a hotline to call for help for those who might be suicidal on the bridge with a callbox next to it. Some members of the MQA District Council felt this action was inadequate and have written a letter to WSDOT requesting that they implement their broader conceptual plan which includes a lane divider in the center of the bridge roadway minimizing head-on collisions, eliminating the walkways on the vehicular level, putting a bicycle/pedestrian path under the existing bridge in a cage-like structure, which would limit the ability to jump, and adding adequate lighting and emergency access to that walkway to minimize criminal activity.

Happenings, continued on following page...

Neighbor Appreciation Day is Coming!

February 10th, 2007 Marks the 13th Annual Seattle Celebration of Neighbors

Saturday, February 10, 2007 will mark Seattle's thirteenth annual celebration of Neighbor Appreciation Day. The celebration began in 1995, when Phinney Ridge activist Judith Wood suggested that the City designate "a special day to celebrate the goodness in those around us and to reach out and strengthen our bonds to each other." Mayor Norm Rice responded by proclaiming the Saturday before Valentine's Day as Neighbor Appreciation Day. The observance has grown every year since!

Neighbor Appreciation Day is a grass-roots celebration. People and organizations throughout Seattle have organized block parties, open houses, award ceremonies, potluck dinners, and work parties to recognize and encourage caring neighbors.

If you plan a special observance, call Peter McGraw at the Department of Neighborhoods, at 615-0950. He will include your event in a special calendar for public officials, the media, and good neighbors throughout Seattle. The deadline for submitting events is January 19th, 2007.

By tradition, we ask Seattle students every year to send us drawings of what they thought it meant to be good

NEIGHBOR APPRECIATION continued on page 5.

HAPPENINGS

your neighborhood

NORTH

NEIGHBOR APPRECIATION continued from page 4.

neighbors. Some ideas from previous years show neighbors sharing meals, helping with childcare, exchanging plants, or talking over the fence. The artwork has also depicted neighbors working together on a community project, such as building a new playground, painting a mural, or beautifying school or park grounds.

The winner of the contest has their art adorning the thousands of Neighbor Appreciation Day cards available throughout the city prior to the day's events. The free greeting cards will be available at City Hall, the 13 Neighborhood Service Centers, and libraries throughout Seattle.

Second and third place winners, along with runners up, are also recognized at a Neighbor Appreciation Day event at the winner's school. The Mayor hands out the awards with the help of the Chair of the Neighborhoods Committee, City Councilmember Sally Clark. Friends and family are always welcome to this event.

For more information, contact Peter McGraw, Public Information Officer, Department of Neighborhoods, at 206-615-0950. 🌐

FOUR COMMUNITY PROJECTS FOCUS ON LAKE CITY

LAKE CITY IS CURRENTLY THE FOCUS OF FOUR STUDIES AND PROJECTS:

- **Sustainable Seattle**—Sustainable Seattle is planning a Lake City community development workshop early next year (with similar workshops focusing on North Beacon Hill and Wallingford). Sustainable Seattle is working with community leaders and Lake City Chamber representatives, as well as with City staff.
- **University Prep School**—A class of 7th graders is interviewing Lake City businesses and residents (and the Neighborhood District Coordinator) to come up with suggestions for neighborhood improvement. Students are also poring over the Lake City Neighborhood Plan and its 1977 precursor, the Lake City Gateway Plan.
- **University of Washington**—A student in a Community and Environmental Planning class is writing a community profile of Lake City for Feet First, the Seattle pedestrian advocacy group. Former Seattle Planning Commission director Marty Curry is the class instructor.
- **Seattle University**—Nursing students from Seattle University are planning a community-building project with residents at Jackson Park House and Village, a Seattle Housing Authority low-income housing development in Lake City.

The Neighborhood District Coordinator is providing information, advice, and contacts for all four projects, as well as connecting them with one another.

NORTHWEST

GAIN GROUP CITED FOR CRIME PREVENTION SUCCESS

North Precinct Police Captain Washburn reported a decrease in narcotics activity in a previously notorious sector of the precinct and specifically complimented the impressive efforts of the GAIN group in helping to bring this about. He expressed his appreciation for their coordination with the precinct in scheduling regular safety walks and clean-up activities, along with improving public safety education in the neighborhood.

Happenings, continued on following page...

HAPPENINGS

SOUTHEAST

your neighborhood

TAF FINDS SOME OPPOSITION AT RAINIER BEACH HIGH SCHOOL

The Technology Access Foundation (TAF), located in Columbia City, is proposing to share half of Rainier Beach High School to open a technology education school for students in sixth to twelfth grade. TAF works with youth of color to develop technology skills. Seattle Public Schools and TAF will take the proposal to the School Board for approval. The school district believes that the project could help to increase enrollment at Rainier Beach High School. TAF is seeking to begin programs in five public schools by September 2008.



Rainier Beach High School students and parents initial response to the proposal has been negative. Many students have signed a petition in opposition to the proposal. Rainier Beach currently has 457 students, about half of the school's capacity.

Both TAF and the School District do not believe that there will be any competition for resources between the two schools. But some community members fear the new program will siphon resources from the current school.

SOUTHWEST

LAND DONATION SOUGHT

The Pier 1/Pier 2 Ad Hoc Committee recently sent a letter to Inland Properties requesting that it consider donating its parcel on Pier 1 to the City of Seattle or "other entity" to support the development of a permanent dock for the Elliott Bay Water Taxi. Buoyed by record ridership figures in 2006 and an effort by King County Councilmember Dow Constantine to secure permanent funding for the Water Taxi, the Ad Hoc Committee feels that the time is right to kick-start discussions on the development of Piers 1 and 2. It is the opinion of the Ad Hoc Committee that securing the donation of the parcel would help leverage similar donations from the remaining three Pier 1 parcel owners. The Ad Hoc Committee feels that the Water Taxi will be a critical transportation option during the construction of the Alaskan Way Viaduct replacement.



is published six times a year by the
City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods.
Mayor: Gregory J. Nickels
Acting Director: Bernie Matsuno
The Department of Neighborhoods reserves
the right to edit material submitted for
publication for length and clarity.
Please address submissions and questions
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Accommodations for persons with
disabilities provided upon request.
Printed on recycled paper.

MAYOR AWARD continued from page 3.

"These projects demonstrate the commitment people in Seattle have for their communities," Nickels said. "Through these efforts, we have reached out to underrepresented communities, made streets safer, provided playgrounds, and created art in public spaces. I'm looking forward to seeing these projects when they're done."

Councilmember Sally Clark, chair of the Economic Development and Neighborhoods Committee, added, "Seattle is a city of great neighborhoods because our citizens choose to make a difference in the places where they live. It is both the city's responsibility and honor to support the work of these civic leaders who are investing in their communities."

Bernie Matsuno, Acting Director of Neighborhoods, said, "I am very proud that the Matching Fund continues to provide people wonderful opportunities to become involved in creating projects that build community in their neighborhoods."

The Small and Simple Projects Fund is one of four components of the Neighborhood Matching Fund, and provides up to \$15,000 to support community-driven projects. Seattle neighborhoods have completed more than 3,100 projects during the past 18 years with the Neighborhood Matching Fund. 🌐



Mayor Greg Nichols and Councilmember Sally Clark at the Small and Simple Awards Ceremony and Ideas Fair.



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Report a downed line: 684-3000

DANGER: CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING AND FIRE HAZARDS

Generators, gas or charcoal grills, and space heaters that use kerosene, propane or alcohol give off DANGEROUS fumes. These fumes are odorless and colorless and kill. NEVER use these items indoors or in unventilated areas such as a garage. Avoid using candles, oil lamps or anything with an open flame for lighting your home. Use battery flashlights.

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